



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 1996

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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### MINNESOTA, Central and South Central

**MNZ058>063-065>070-074>079-083>086**      **Meeker - Wright - Hennepin - Anoka - Ramsey - Washington - Renville - Mcleod - Sibley - Carver - Scott - Dakota - Brown - Nicollet - Le Sueur - Rice - Goodhue - Wabasha - Blue Earth - Waseca - Steele - Dodge**

**10 1300CST**  
**11 0300CST**

**0 0**

**Heavy Snow**

The town of Stewart received 7 inches while 6 inches of snow was measured at Chanhassen, Savage, Mankato, Litchfield and Stillwater

**MNZ041>045-047>059-064>066-073>074**      **Douglas - Todd - Morrison - Mille Lacs - Kanabec - Stevens - Pope - Stearns - Benton - Sherburne - Isanti - Chisago - Lac Qui Parle - Swift - Chippewa - Kandiyohi - Meeker - Wright - Yellow Medicine - Renville - Mcleod - Redwood - Brown**

**17 0900CST**  
**18 1800CST**

**1 0**

**Blizzard**

A major winter storm brought blizzard conditions with significant snowfall to western and central Minnesota. Snowfall reached a foot or more in Little Falls, Melrose, Alexandria and Staples with 6 to 11 inches in St. Cloud, Benson and Canby. Wind gusts to 60 mph on the 18th also resulted in dangerous wind chills of 70 below to western Minnesota. Many schools and businesses were closed on the 18th. Near Blizzard conditions were found as far south as Fairmont despite significantly less snowfall. Highway 14 from New Ulm to Sleepy Eye was closed for a time due to drifting snow. One man left his car after hitting a snowbank, and became lost in the whiteout conditions. His body was found a week later about 3/4 mile away from his vehicle and about 2 miles north of the town of Foley. M56OU

**MNZ060>063-067>070-075>076-082>083**      **Hennepin - Anoka - Ramsey - Washington - Sibley - Carver - Scott - Dakota - Nicollet - Le Sueur - Watonwan - Blue Earth**

**17 1400CST**  
**18 0100CST**

**0 0**

**Ice Storm**

An extended period of rain and freezing rain resulted in significant icing conditions over parts of east central and southern Minnesota. Over 1 inch of rain occurred over much of the area resulting in street flooding due to snow clogged sewers. 1/2 to 1 inch thick ice accumulations over much of the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area resulted in significant tree damage and power outages. More than 180,000 metro residents were without power for some part of the storm. Sporadic outages continued through the 22nd. The entire town of Lafayette in Nicollet County was without power for a time. 5 Red Cross shelters were opened in the metro area to assist people who were forced from their homes due to a lack of heat. Significantly colder air overspread the area the night of the 17th changing the rain to light snow and caused one foot thick ice to form on roads.

**MNZ077>078-084>088-093>096**      **Rice - Goodhue - Waseca - Steele - Dodge - Olmsted - Winona - Freeborn - Mower - Fillmore - Houston**

**17 1400CST**  
**18 2300CST**

**0 0**

**Heavy Snow**

Significant rainfall of 1 inch across the area was followed by an abrupt change to colder weather. Temperatures dropped rapidly below freezing resulting in widespread icing and glaze. In addition, snow redeveloped in the early morning of the 18th with accumulations of 4 to 8 inches. Rochester received 7 inches while Lanesboro and Winona both received 6 inches. Strong winds brought near whiteout conditions at times. Schools were closed Thursday.

**MNZ041>045-047>070-073>078-082>085-091>093**      **Douglas - Todd - Morrison - Mille Lacs - Kanabec - Stevens - Pope - Stearns - Benton - Sherburne - Isanti - Chisago - Lac Qui Parle - Swift - Chippewa - Kandiyohi - Meeker - Wright - Hennepin - Anoka - Ramsey - Washington - Yellow Medicine - Renville - Mcleod - Sibley - Carver - Scott - Dakota - Redwood - Brown - Nicollet - Le Sueur - Rice - Goodhue - Watonwan - Blue Earth - Waseca - Steele - Martin - Faribault - Freeborn**

**18 1800CST**  
**19 1700CST**

**0 0**

**Extreme Windchill**

More than 475 schools including those in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area were closed due to extreme cold and wind chill which lingered from the 18th when very cold air overspread the region. Wind chills were frequently 50 below zero or colder. The winds diminished on the 19th, however very cold conditions persisted into the 20th. Many locations neared record cold the morning of the 20th.



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					Killed	Injured	Property Crops	

### MINNESOTA, Central and South Central

MNZ074>079-082>088-091>096	Brown - Nicollet - Le Sueur - Rice - Goodhue - Wabasha - Watonwan - Blue Earth - Waseca - Steele - Dodge - Olmsted - Winona - Martin - Faribault - Freeborn - Mower - Fillmore - Houston							
	25	0200CST 1100CST			0	0		Heavy Snow
5 to 8 inch snowfall across far southern Minnesota. Rochester and Mankato received 6 inches while Albert Lea received 8 inches.								
MNZ079-086>088-094>096	Wabasha - Dodge - Olmsted - Winona - Mower - Fillmore - Houston							
	26 27	1100CST 0300CST			0	0		Blizzard
Heavy snow and strong winds brought blizzard conditions to a portion of the area. Caledonia reported 14 inches, 10 inches at Lanesboro and Winona, 8 inches at Rochester and Austin. Many roads were closed in Southeast Minnesota due to blowing snow and drifts as high as 15 feet in Houston County. 200 cars were abandoned on Interstate 90.								
MNZ041>044-047>049	Douglas - Todd - Morrison - Mille Lacs - Stevens - Pope - Stearns							
	28 29	0400CST 0500CST			0	0		Heavy Snow
Strong low pressure system tracked across northern Iowa into Great Lakes bringing heavy snowfall to much of central Minnesota. Alexandria and Long Prairie received 7 inches of snow while 6 inches was measured at Melrose, Isle and Morris								
MNZ041-047>048-054>057-064>065-073>078-082>088-091>096	Douglas - Stevens - Pope - Lac Qui Parle - Swift - Chippewa - Kandiyohi - Yellow Medicine - Renville - Redwood - Brown - Nicollet - Le Sueur - Rice - Goodhue - Watonwan - Blue Earth - Waseca - Steele - Dodge - Olmsted - Winona - Martin - Faribault - Freeborn - Mower - Fillmore - Houston							
	28 29	2300CST 1100CST			0	0		Blizzard
Strong northwest winds with gusts over 40 mph at times along with 2 to 5 inch snowfalls resulted in blizzard conditions over much of western and southern Minnesota. Visibilities were frequently near zero in the open country due to blowing snow. Interstate 90 closed near Austin for a time. Several school districts closed. Snowfall of 2 inches in Rochester resulted in setting new January snowfall record.								
MNZ041>045-047>070-073>079-082>088-091>096	Douglas - Todd - Morrison - Mille Lacs - Kanabec - Stevens - Pope - Stearns - Benton - Sherburne - Isanti - Chisago - Lac Qui Parle - Swift - Chippewa - Kandiyohi - Meeker - Wright - Hennepin - Anoka - Ramsey - Washington - Yellow Medicine - Renville - Mcleod - Sibley - Carver - Scott - Dakota - Redwood - Brown - Nicollet - Le Sueur - Rice - Goodhue - Wabasha - Watonwan - Blue Earth - Waseca - Steele - Dodge - Olmsted - Winona - Martin - Faribault - Freeborn - Mower - Fillmore - Houston							
	31	0400CST 2300CST			0	0		Extreme Cold
Extremely cold air settled over the area on January 31st, and remained entrenched through February 4th. A new record low temperature for Minnesota was set in the town of Tower on 2/2. Numerous record low temperatures and record low high temperatures were set during the period at St. Cloud, Rochester and the Twin Cities. Minneapolis/St. Paul set three new record low temperatures as well as recording the second coldest day on record on 2/2. A mean temperature of 25 degrees below zero was measured that day with a high of 17 below and a low of 32 degrees below zero. This was within two degrees of tying the all-time record low temperature set in the Twin Cities and the coldest temperature recorded this century. Many central and southern Minnesota locations set new record low temperatures the morning of the 2nd. The governor closed all schools that day.								

### WISCONSIN, West

WIZ014>016-023>028	Polk - Barron - Rusk - St. Croix - Pierce - Dunn - Pepin - Chippewa - Eau Claire							
	17 18	2100CST 0500CST			0	0		Ice Storm



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		Local/ Standard	Length (Miles)	Width (Yards)	Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

### WISCONSIN, West

Freezing rain resulted in ice accumulations ranging from one quarter inch in Eau Claire to 3 inches in the Ladysmith and Rice Lake areas. Scattered power outages resulted.

**WIZ014>016-023>028**      **Polk - Barron - Rusk - St. Croix - Pierce - Dunn - Pepin - Chippewa - Eau Claire**

<b>18</b>	<b>0500CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Heavy Snow</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>0300CST</b>			

Heavy snowfall in combination with near blizzard conditions across the area. Strong winds continued to severely reduce the visibility through much of the 19th due to blowing snow. Some of the heavier snow amounts included 12 inches at Ladysmith, 11 inches at Eau Claire and 10 inches at Plum City and Durand.

**WIZ015>016-024>028**      **Barron - Rusk - Pierce - Dunn - Pepin - Chippewa - Eau Claire**

<b>26</b>	<b>1400CST</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Blizzard</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>0300CST</b>			

Strong winds and heavy snow reduced the visibility to less than one quarter mile at times. Many roads reported impassable in Eau Claire and Dunn counties. Eau Claire received 9 inches of snow, Menomonie 8 inches and Barron 6 inches. An Elk Mound woman died of exposure about 50 yards from her home after her car became stranded in the blizzard conditions. F44OU

**WIZ024>028**      **Pierce - Dunn - Pepin - Chippewa - Eau Claire**

<b>29</b>	<b>0500CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Blizzard</b>
	<b>1200CST</b>			

Strong northwest winds combined with 2 to 6 inch snowfall in producing blizzard conditions through the morning. School was canceled or closed early in numerous communities. Eau Claire received 4.5 inches of snow setting a new January record for snowfall.

**WIZ014>016-023>028**      **Polk - Barron - Rusk - St. Croix - Pierce - Dunn - Pepin - Chippewa - Eau Claire**

<b>31</b>	<b>0500CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Extreme Cold</b>
	<b>2300CST</b>			

Extremely cold air settled over the area on January 31st, and remained entrenched through February 4th. The cold peaked the morning of February 2nd when a new record low temperature of 35 below was set in Eau Claire. Some area schools called off class due to the extreme cold on the 2nd. A power outage affected the entire town of Clifton on the 2nd. A woman accidentally locked in garage died from exposure to the cold.